

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information storage medium comprising:
a plurality of unit audio information to be reproduced independently of
5 each other;
aggregate audio information each including one or more of the unit
audio information;
unit attribute information indicating attributes of the unit audio
information included in the aggregate audio information; and
10 aggregate attribute information including the unit attribute information
corresponding to the aggregate audio information recorded on the storage
medium.
2. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the aggregate attribute
15 information is recorded at a position on the storage medium which is read prior
to any other portions.
3. A medium according to claim 1, wherein the aggregate attribute
information includes information of at least a sampling frequency and a
20 quantization bit number used to a coding of the unit audio information and a
channel number.
4. A reproduction apparatus for an information storage medium
comprising: a plurality of unit audio information to be reproduced independently
25 of each other; aggregate audio information each including one or more of the
unit audio information; unit attribute information indicating attributes of the unit
audio information included in the aggregate audio information; and aggregate
attribute information including the unit attribute information corresponding to the
aggregate audio information recorded on the storage medium, the apparatus

comprising:

a reading unit for reading information from the information storage medium;

5 a storage unit for storing the aggregate attribute information read by the reading unit;

an input unit for receiving, from a user, a reproduction instruction designating a plurality of unit audio information to be reproduced successively; and

10 a reproduction unit for setting the attribute for the reproduction based on the aggregate attribute information stored in the storage unit and for reproducing the unit audio information designated by the user in accordance with the attribute set, wherein said reproduction unit comprising:

15 an obtaining unit for obtaining the attribute corresponding to each of the plurality of unit audio information designated by the user from the aggregate attribute information stored in the storage unit;

a determining unit for determining whether or not the obtained attributes of the unit audio information to be successively reproduced are identical; and

20 an attribute change unit for starting an attribute setting of the unit audio information to be reproduced next immediately after the reproduction of the unit audio information currently reproduced, if the determining unit determines that the attributes are different.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the reproduction unit
25 comprising a search unit for transferring the reading unit to a recording position on the information storage medium of the unit audio information to be reproduced next immediately after the reproduction the unit audio information currently reproduced, and for allowing the reproduction unit to start reproduction of the unit audio information to be reproduced next after a

predetermined waiting time has passed from the start of the transfer of the reading unit.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the waiting time is
5 longer than a time required to change the set attribute by the attribute change unit.

7. A reproduction apparatus for an information storage medium comprising: a plurality of unit audio information to be reproduced independently
10 of each other; aggregate audio information each including one or more of the unit audio information; and unit attribute information indicating attributes of the unit audio information included in the aggregate audio information, the apparatus comprising:

a reading unit for reading information from the information storage
15 medium;

a table producing unit for obtaining the unit attribute information corresponding to the aggregate audio information recorded on the storage medium from the reading unit and for producing an aggregate attribute information table;

20 a storage unit for storing the aggregate attribute information table produced by the table producing unit;

an input unit for receiving, from a user, a reproduction instruction designating a plurality of the unit audio information to be reproduced successively; and

25 a reproduction unit for setting the attribute for the reproduction based on the aggregate attribute information table stored in the storage unit and for reproducing the unit audio information designated by the user in accordance with the attribute set, wherein said reproduction unit comprising:

an obtaining unit for obtaining the attributes corresponding to each of

the plurality of unit audio information designated by the user from the aggregate attribute information table stored in the storage unit;

a determining unit for determining whether or not the obtained attributes of the unit audio information to be successively reproduced are identical; and

an attribute change unit for starting an attribute setting of the unit audio information to be reproduced next immediately after the reproduction of the unit audio information currently reproduced, if the determining unit determines that the attributes are different.

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8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the reproduction unit comprising a search unit for transferring the reading unit to a recording position on the information storage medium of the unit audio information to be reproduced next immediately after the reproduction of the unit audio information currently reproduced, and for allowing the reproduction unit to start reproduction of the unit audio information to be reproduced next after a predetermined waiting time has passed from the start of the transfer of the reading unit.

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9. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the waiting time is longer than a time required to change the set attribute by the attribute change unit.

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10. A reproduction method of an information storage medium comprising: a plurality of unit audio information to be reproduced independently of each other; aggregate audio information each including one or more of the unit audio information; unit attribute information indicating attributes of the unit audio information included in the aggregate audio information; and aggregate attribute information including the unit attribute information corresponding to the

aggregate audio information recorded on the storage medium, the method comprising the steps of:

reading the aggregate attribute information from the information storage medium to store the read information into a storage unit;

5 receiving, from a user, a reproduction instruction designating a plurality of unit audio information to be reproduced successively;

setting the attribute for the reproduction based on the aggregate attribute information stored in the storage unit; and

10 reproducing the unit audio information designated by the user in accordance with the attribute set, wherein said reproducing step comprising the steps of:

obtaining the attributes corresponding to each of the plurality of unit audio information designated by the user from the aggregate attribute information stored in the storage unit;

15 determining whether or not the attributes of the unit audio information to be reproduced successively are identical; and

starting an attribute setting of the unit audio information to be reproduced next immediately after the reproduction of the unit audio information currently reproduced, if it is determined in the determining step that
20 the attributes are different.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the reproducing step comprising the steps of:

transferring an information reading position to a recording position on
25 the information storage medium of the unit audio information to be reproduced next immediately after the reproduction of the unit audio information currently reproduced; and

starting reproduction of the unit audio information to be reproduced next after a predetermined waiting time has passed from the start of the

transfer of the information reading position.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the waiting time is longer than a time required to change the set attribute.

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13. A reproduction method of an information storage medium comprising: a plurality of unit audio information to be reproduced independently of each other; aggregate audio information each including one or more of the unit audio information; and unit attribute information indicating attributes of the 10 unit audio information included in the aggregate audio information, the apparatus comprising:

reading the unit attribute information corresponding to the aggregate audio information recorded on the storage medium to produce an aggregate attribute information table;

15 storing the aggregate attribute information table produced into a storage unit;

receiving, from a user, a reproduction instruction designating a plurality of unit audio information to be reproduced successively;

20 setting the attribute for the reproduction based on the aggregate attribute information table stored in the storage unit; and

reproducing the unit audio information designated by the user in accordance with the attribute set, wherein said reproducing step comprising the steps of:

25 obtaining the attributes corresponding to each of the plurality of unit audio information designated by the user from the aggregate attribute information table stored in the storage unit;

determining whether or not the attributes of the unit audio information to be successively reproduced are identical; and

starting an attribute setting of the unit audio information to be

reproduced next immediately after the reproduction of the unit audio information currently reproduced, if it is determined in the determining step that the attributes are different.

5 14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the reproducing step comprising the steps of:

transferring an information reading position to a recording position on the information storage medium of the unit audio information to be reproduced next immediately after the reproduction of the unit audio information currently 10 reproduced; and

starting reproduction of the unit audio information to be reproduced next after a predetermined waiting time has passed from the start of the transfer of the information reading position.

15 15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the waiting time is longer than a time required to change the set attribute.